



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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THREE AUSTIN MEN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that ANTHONY TYRONE PERKINS, TIMOTHY DALE GOULD, AND MICHAEL DAVID SHELTON were sentenced by Judge Sam Sparks for federal firearms offenses.

Defendant Anthony Tyrone Perkins was convicted by an Austin jury on April 8, 2003, for unlawful possession of a firearm. A loaded .25 caliber pistol was seized from the defendant after he attempted to flee from Austin Police Department officers seeking to arrest him on outstanding warrants for aggravated robbery. On June 27, 2003, Perkins was sentenced to the statutory maximum term of 120 months imprisonment.

Defendant Timothy Dale Gould pled guilty on May 16, 2003, to bank robbery and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence based upon his robbery of \$55,169.00 from the Bank of America in Austin. On June 27, 2003, Gould was sentenced to 141 months imprisonment.

Defendant Michael David Shelton pled guilty on April 16, 2003, to two counts of bank robbery, one count of carrying a firearm during a crime of violence, and one count of conspiracy to carry a firearm during a crime of violence. The guilty plea stems from his involvement in the robbery of two Austin, Texas, banks where \$8,506.00 was stolen. The defendant attempted to escape from the Travis County Jail following his arrest for this offense and was subsequently convicted and sentenced to 3 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. On June 27, 2003, Shelton was sentenced to 234 months in federal prison to run consecutively to his pending state sentence.

These cases were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and Austin Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Jerry Carruth prosecuted the cases on behalf of the Government. The successful prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's new gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences. This commitment to reduce gun crime includes federal funding this year of over \$200 million, which is used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.

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